Agile Alliance Announces New Board Member and Officers for 2012-2013

Press Release

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The Agile Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the advancement of Agile software development principles and practices, today announced the addition of a new board member and officers for the coming year. Declan Whelan, an Agile coach, was elected as a new Agile Alliance board member. Existing board members now serving as officers include Rebecca Parsons from ThoughtWorks, Ola Ellnestam from Agical, and Linda Cook from PayPal.

“The latest Agile Alliance board is comprised of some of the world’s foremost experts in the Agile industry, and each is poised to meet our organization’s goal to make the software industry more productive, humane and sustainable on an international scale,” said Phil Brock, managing director of the Agile Alliance. “As we look ahead to the next year we will continue our work to extend the benefits of Agile practices to more organizations and individuals that are passionate about improving the productivity and efficiency of software development and delivery.”

To help guide the organization’s growth, the Agile Alliance membership elected one new member to its board of directors, along with three members to leadership positions, including:
* Declan Whelan, Agile Alliance Board Member – Whelan is an Agile developer and coach. He also is a professional software engineer, with 25 years of experience in a wide range of industries, including financial, medical, educational and manufacturing. To date, he has started three technology companies and has consulted with many other organizations in Canada. Whelan is a certified Scrum Practitioner and a member of the IEEE Computer Society, Agile Alliance and Scrum Alliance. His primary area of focus is working together with teams to deliver better software value, quality and time-to-market through Agile principles and practices.
* Rebecca Parsons, Chair of the Agile Alliance Board – Parsons is CTO of ThoughtWorks. She has more than 20 years' application development experience, in industries ranging from telecommunications to emergent internet services. Parsons has published in both language and artificial intelligence publications, served on numerous program committees, and reviews for several journals. She has extensive experience leading in the creation of large-scale distributed object applications and the integration of disparate systems.
* Ola Ellnestam, Secretary of the Agile Alliance Board – Ellnestam became engaged in the Agile community in 2000 after reading Extreme Programming Explained. Fueled with this information, he began his Agile journey which later led him to start a company specializing in XP and Scrum. In 2005, Ellnestam helped started Agical, one of Sweden’s most prominent Agile coaching companies. As an expert in software development, he coaches both developers and leaders to learn Agile practices and methods. He also is one of the driving forces behind ‘Agile Sweden’, Sweden’s biggest Agile network. In addition, Ellnestam will be the continuing director of the Agile Alliance Conference Sponsorship Program.
* Linda Cook, Treasurer of the Agile Alliance Board - Cook is a well-known Agilist, and board member of both the Agile Alliance and the Agile Leadership Network. Her primary areas of focus

include: servant leadership, mentorship, types of individuals appropriate for the profession, and the differences between being an external coach versus being an internal employee in the coach role. Cook has more than 20 years' experience in the IT industry, having held positions from developer, forms designer, data modeler, analyst, tester and methodology lead. She has worked in a variety of industries, including financial systems, insurance, education, research, manufacturing and IT consulting. Returning members of the 2012-2013 board include: Samuel Crescêncio (Brazil), Paul Culling (Canada), Ester Derby (USA), Shane Hastie (New Zealand), Diana Larsen (USA), Pat Reed (USA), and Jim Newkirk (USA). Phil Brock (USA) continues to serve as managing director. The Agile Alliance continues to increase its membership each year in line with the growing interest and adoption of Agile processes for software development. One key indicator of the increasing adoption of Agile practices is the continuing demand for Agile knowledge by enterprises looking to reap the benefits of the discipline. The Agile Alliance helps meet this demand by publishing content, conducting regional and international educational events and by hosting the industry’s foremost event, the Agile Conference, which brings together development experts from around the globe. The Agile2013 Conference is scheduled for Aug. 5 – 9 in Nashville, Tennessee. Agile2013 will continue as the leading international conference on Agile methods in software development, bringing together many disciplines in the fields of information systems and software development to foster the exchange of fresh ideas and best practices.

About Agile Alliance Agile Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the concepts of Agile software development, as outlined in the http://www.agilemanifesto.org/. With nearly 6,000 members located around the globe, Agile Alliance is driven by the principles of Agile methodologies and the value delivered to developers, organizations and end users. Agile Alliance organizes the annual Agile Conference, the industry’s leading event that attracts practitioners, academia, business and vendor-partner community members from around the globe. The Agile2013 Conference is scheduled for August 5-9 in Nashville, Tennessee. For more information about the organization, please visit http://www.agilealliance.org/.